What is claimed is:

1. The use of compounds of the formula (1)

where

 R^1 , R^2 are each independently C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl,

R³ is C₁- to C₂₂-alkyl, C₂- to C₂₂-alkenyl, C₆- to C₃₀-aryl or C₇- to C₃₀-alkylaryl, -CHR⁵-COO⁻ or -O⁻,

R⁴ is M, hydrogen or an organic radical which optionally contains heteroatoms and has from 1 to 100 carbon atoms,

A is a C_2 - to C_4 -alkylene group,

B is a C₁- to C₁₀-alkylene group,

D is an organic radical which optionally contains heteroatoms and has from 1 to 600 carbon atoms,

X, Y are each independently O or NR⁶,

 R^5 , R^6 are each independently hydrogen, C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl, and

M is a cation

n is a number from 1 to 30

as corrosion inhibitors and gas hydrate inhibitors.

- 2. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein A is an ethylene or propylene group.
- 3. The use as claimed in claim 1 and/or 2, wherein B is a C_2 to C_4 -

alkylene group.

- 4. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently an alkyl or alkenyl group of from 2 to 14 carbon atoms.
- 5. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, wherein R³ is an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.
- 6. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, wherein R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen.
- 7. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, wherein n is a number in the range from 1 to 10.
- 8. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7, wherein R^4 is a radical of the formula (2)

$$\begin{array}{c}
R^{1} \\
\downarrow \\
R^{2} \\
\downarrow \\
R^{3}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
A - O \xrightarrow{}_{m} B \xrightarrow{}_{*} (2)$$

where R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , A and B are each as defined in claim 1, and m, independently of n, is a number in the range from 0 to 30.

- 9. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8, wherein D is a C_2 to C_{50} -alkylene or C_2 to C_{50} -alkenylene group.
- 10. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8, wherein D is derived from substituted succinic acid derivatives having from 10 to 100 carbon atoms.
- 11. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8, wherein D is a

radical of the formula (3)

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R^{1} & O & O & O \\
R^{2} & N^{+} & A - O \xrightarrow{n} B - X & P^{7} & R^{12}
\end{array}$$
(3)

where

 R^7 and R^{12} are each either hydrogen or a C_2 - to C_{100} -alkyl or C_2 - to C_{100} -alkenyl radical which is obtainable as an oligomer of C_2 - to C_8 -alkenes and may be straight-chain or branched, with the proviso that exactly one of the R^7 and R^{12} radicals is hydrogen, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , A, B, X, Y and n are each as defined in claim 1.

12. A compound of the formula (1)

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R^{1} & O & O \\
\downarrow & \downarrow \\
R^{2} & A - O \xrightarrow{n} B - X & D & Y - R^{4}
\end{array}$$
(1)

where

 R^1 , R^2 are each independently C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl, C_6 - to C_{30} -aryl or C_7 - to C_{30} -alkylaryl,

R³ is C₁- to C₂₂-alkyl, C₂- to C₂₂-alkenyl, C₆- to C₃₀-aryl or C₇- to C₃₀-alkylaryl, -CHR⁵-COO⁻ or -O⁻,

R⁴ is M, hydrogen or an organic radical which optionally contains heteroatoms and has from 1 to 100 carbon atoms,

A is a C_2 - to C_4 -alkylene group,

B is a C_1 - to C_{10} -alkylene group,

D is an organic radical which optionally contains heteroatoms and has from 1 to 600 carbon atoms,

X, Y are each independently O or NR⁶,

 R^5 , R^6 are each independently hydrogen, C_1 - to C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - to C_{22} -alkenyl,

 $\rm C_{6^-}$ to $\rm C_{30^-}$ aryl or $\rm C_{7^-}$ to $\rm C_{30^-}$ alkylaryl, and

- M is a cation
- n is a number from 1 to 30.